

Appl. No. 10/605,997
Amdt. Dated June 22, 2006
Reply to Office Action of March 24, 2006

REMARKS

Applicant currently has rewritten claim 7 in independent form, as per the Examiner's instruction; has also amended claims 1, 11, and 21-23; and has canceled claims 15-20. The claims 1-14, and 21-24 are pending in this application. It is further noted that the current Office Action completely fails to address pending claims 21-24.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pfeiffer et al. (US 6,092,981) (also now referred to as Pfeiffer et al. '981).

In response to the rejection of such claims 1-6, Applicant has currently amended claim 1 and respectfully traverses the rejection thereof. Claim 1, as amended, recites in part:

[an] adjustable cassette configured for accommodating substrates, comprising:

a frame having two guiding slots in each of two opposite sides thereof respectively;

a pair of supporting plates with a plurality of retaining ribs ... each guiding slot extends along a direction oriented from one of the supporting plates to the other one of the supporting plates; and

... at least one supporting plate can be moved away from or close to another supporting plate by way of sliding the screw bolts along the guiding slots and can be fixed by means of the screws bolts.

Applicant submits that such an adjustable cassette, as set forth in amended claim 1, is neither taught, disclosed, nor suggested by Pfeiffer et al. '981 or any of the other cited references, taken alone or in combination.

Specifically, the Examiner has alleged the top and bottom brackets 52, 54 in Fig. 3 of Pfeiffer et al. '981 have two guiding slots that receive

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connecting rods 62 and supporting plates with supporting ribs 66 and thus meets the limitations of the frame defined in amended claim 1. However, the Examiner did not clearly point out the elements of Pfeiffer et al. '981 that are contended as qualifying as the two guiding slots and the supporting plates in Fig. 3 of Pfeiffer et al. '981. Accordingly, based upon the argument presented by the Examiner, Applicant reasonably has operated on the presumption that the openings of columnar supports 56, 57, 58 extending along the direction oriented from the top bracket 52 to the bottom bracket 54 are considered as the guiding slots and that the columnar supports 56, 57, 58 are considered as the supporting plates by the Examiner.

Thus, based on such an interpretation of the current rejection, as set forth by the Examiner, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of amended claim 1 as following reasons. In particular, the columnar supports 56, 57, 58 cannot be moved away from or close to one another by way of moving the connecting rods 62 (alleged as screw bolts by the Examiner), via sliding thereof, in order to accommodate different sized substrates. The only way to adjust such positioning is by geometrically adjusting the location of the connecting rod attachments in the appropriately sized top and bottom brackets (see column 5, lines 10-13 of Pfeiffer et al. '981). Therefore, Applicant submits that Pfeiffer et al. '981 fail to disclose or suggest "each guiding slot extends along a direction oriented from one of the supporting plates to the other one of the supporting plates; and ... at least one supporting plate can be moved away from or close to another supporting plate by way of sliding the screw bolts along the guiding slots", as set forth in amended claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Pfeiffer et al. '981, taken alone or in combination with any of the other cited references, does not anticipate or otherwise render obvious the limitations of the present adjustable cassette defined in the amended claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the

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rejection and allowance of amended claim 1 are hereby respectfully requested.

Claims 2-6 depend directly or indirectly from the amended claim 1. As the amended claim 1 is allowable for the reasons set forth above, Applicant submits that claims 2-6 are also allowable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-6 and allowance of such claims are respectfully requested.

Additionally, as a matter of fact, Applicant has elected, without traverse, claims 21-24, in addition to claims 1-14, in the response filed on October 12, 2005. However, in current Office Action, the Examiner has neglected claims 21-24. Applicant submits that claim 21, as well as claims 22-24 depending therefrom, are allowable under §102 and §103 for reasons similar to those asserted above in relation to amended claim 1. Specifically, similar to claim 1, claim 21, as amended, recites in part:

[an] adjustable cassette configured for accommodating substrates, comprising:

...;

a pair of supporting plates with a plurality of retaining members facing each other; and

... wherein at least one supporting plate can slide away from or close to another supporting plate along a direction oriented from one of the supporting plates to the other one of the supporting plates. (Emphasis added)

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that "claims 7-10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims", for which courtesy the Examiner is thanked. In

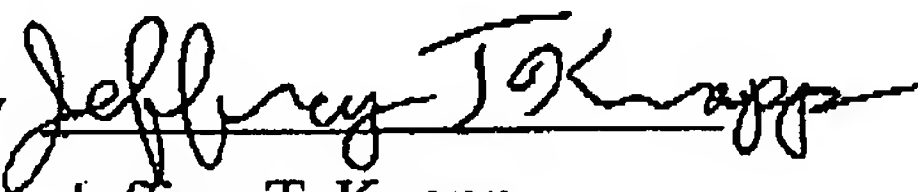
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response, claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form, and Applicant submits that such claim is now in condition for allowance. Further, claims 8-10 depend directly or indirectly from allowable claim 7. As such, claims 8-10 should also be found allowable.

The Examiner has indicated that "claims 11-14 are allowed," for which courtesy the Examiner is thanked. In particular, Applicant currently has amended the claim 11 in respect of minor informalities and in order to more correctly express the claimed subject matter. As such, Applicant submits that claim 11, as amended, is still in condition for allowance, even upon amendment in the manner set forth above.

In view of the foregoing, the present application as claimed in the pending claims is considered to be in a condition for allowance, and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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